

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT DAKAR 2073 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BAMAKO
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QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL DAKAR 2073

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, SG

SUBJ: SENEGALESE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION EMPHASIZES

MILITARY PREPAREDNESS

1. SUMMARY: SENEGAL'S 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE ON APRIL 4 PRONOUNCED MARTIAL FLAVOR AND PLACED PROMINENT EMPHASIS ON YOUTH. DPRK ACHIEVED PROPAGANDA TRIUMPH BY PRESENTING GYMNASTIC EXHIBITION AND STADIUM FLASH-CARD DISPLAY INVOLVING THOUSANDS OF SENEGALESE STUDENTS. PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S ADDRESS EMPHASIZED SENEGAL'S DETERMINATION TO STAND UP AND FIGHT IF ITS SECURITY WERE THREATENED IN FACE OF "ANARCHY AND INSTABILITY" ON AFRICAN CONTINENT. SENGHOR ALSO DISCUSSED PROGRAMS TO TAP ENERGIES OF NATION'S YOUTH. IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF MILITARY STRENGTH IN INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE REINFORCED SENGHOR'S

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MESSAGE ON NATIONAL SECURITY. END SUMMARY

2. DPRK SCORED MAJOR PROPAGANDA COUP BY ORGANIZING AND OVERSEEING GYMNASTIC EXHIBITION AND FLASH CARD SHOW IN DEMBA DIOP STADIUM APRIL 3. TEAM OF SEVEN NORTH KOREANS SPEND THREE MONTHS SUPERVISING TRAINING OF 6,700 SENECALESE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN COLORFUL SPECTACLE ATTENDED BY SENGHOR. PROGRAM DRAMATIZED SENECALESE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, VENERATED SENGHOR AND PROMOTED THIRD WORLD SOLIDARITY WHILE ESCHEWING MORE HEAVY-HANDED DPRK PROPAGANDA THEMES). MOVEMENTS WERE EXECUTED WITH IMPRESSIVE PRECISION, AND PUBLIC SENECALESE REACTION HAS BEEN ONE OF WARM APPRECIATION FOR NORTH KOREAN GESTURE AND PROFOUND PRIDE IN DEMONSTRATION OF NATIONAL DISCIPLINE AND MOTIVATION WHICH SPECTACLE PROVIDED.

3. SENGHOR'S ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS TO NATION EMPHASIZED MILITARY PREPAREDNESS. HE ASSERTED THAT SENECALESE COULD NOT REST WITH FOLDED ARMS "WHEN ANARCHY AND INSTABILITY REIGN IN AFRICA, WHEN, SINCE ANGOLAN WAR, EVERYONE AROUND US IS ARMING HIMSELF." WHILE REAFFIRMING SENECALESE'S POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND COOPERATION WITH ALL AFRICAN STATES, BEGINNING WITH ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS, SENGHOR DECLARED THAT "IF, IN SPITE OF THAT POLICY, WE ARE ATTACKED, WE WILL NOT ACT LIKE RABBITS; WE WILL FACE UP, WE WILL FIGHT, ARMY AND PEOPLE TOGETHER." SENGHOR SAID SENECALESE COULD FEEL CONFIDENT AND SECURE, "IN SPITE OF THE SITUATION PREVAILING ON THIS CONTINENT." SENECALESE'S ARMY HAD HELPED MAINTAIN PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST AND WITH CIVIL TASKS AT HOME. NOW, HOWEVER, SITUATION DEMANDS THAT "DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES ON OUR FRONTIERS BE REINFORCED." SENGHOR SAID ARMY'S FIRE POWER WAS BEING INCREASED AND REGULAR MANEUVERS AND OTHER TRAINING PROGRAMS WOULD BE CONTINUED.

4. SENGHOR ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO NATION'S YOUTH. HE ASSERTED THAT "WE ARE LISTENING" TO THEIR ASPIRATIONS AND DESIRES. HE OUTLINED ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY IN FIELD OF SPORTS AND ANNOUNCED THAT NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE WILL BE ORGANIZED. BEGINNING NEXT YEAR, YOUTH WEEK WILL ALSO BE OBSERVED PRECEDING INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION. SENGHOR CONCLUDED WITH REVIEW OF PROGRESS UNDER NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND CURRENT EFFORTS TO FOSTER "GREATER DEMOCRATIZATION OF POLITICAL LIFE." COMPLETE TEXT OF ADDRESS IS BEING POUCED.

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5. APRIL 4 PARADE LASTING THREE HOURS WAS DOMINATED BY MARCHING TROOPS OF ALL THREE MILITARY SERVICES (INCLUDING COMMANDO AND PARACHUTE GROUPS), MILITARY SCHOOLS, POLICE, PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, CUSTOMS OFFICERS AND FIRE FIGHTERS. EQUIPMENT INCLUDED SOME FORTY ARMORED CARS (SOME EQUIPPED WITH 90MM WEAPONS) AS WELL AS FIVE RECENTLY ACQUIRED FOUGA MAGISTER JETS WHICH MADE PASSES OVERHEAD, ALONG WITH HELICOPTERS AND TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT.

DISPLAY OF IMMACULATE EQUIPMENT AND WELL-OUTFITTED MILITARY MANPOWER LEFT LASTING IMPRESSION ON SPECTATORS AND REINFORCED SENGHOR'S MESSAGE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE.

6. COMMENT: MARTIAL EMPHASIS OF INDEPENDENCE OBSERVANCE REPRESENTS MOST PUBLIC MANIFESTATION TO DATE OF GROWING SENECALESE CONCERN OVER NATIONAL SECURITY IN FACE OF SOVIET ACTIVITY IN NEIGHBORING STATES AND IN ANGOLA AND ELSEWHERE ON CONTINENT. IT ALSO REFLECTS SENGHOR'S APPREHENSION OVER IMPLICATIONS OF INCREASING DIVISION OF AFRICA ALONG IDEOLOGICAL LINES. APRIL 4 DISPLAY CAME IN WAKE OF GOS DECISION THAT IT WILL WITHDRAW ITS BATTALION FROM UN FORCES IN SINAI TO MEET DEFENSE NEEDS AT HOME. UNSETTLED SAARAN SITUATION, CONTINUED HOSTILITY BY SEKOU TOURE AND SECURITY PROBLEMS ALONG BORDER WITH GUINEA-BISSAU (SEE DAKAR A-45) REPRESENT MOST IMMEDIATE SENECALESE CONCERNS, BUT SENGHOR'S PLEDGE TO REINFORCE NATIONAL DEFENSES POINTS TOWARD LONG-TERM EFFORT TO BOLSTER GOS MILITARY CAPABILITY. EFFORT TO CHANNEL YOUTHFUL ENERGEIES INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEFENSE EFFORTS REFLECTS FACT THAT YOUTH--IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL-- REPRESENTS MOST LIKELY SOURCE OF POLITICAL RESTLESSNESS WHICH COULD MAR IMAGE OF NATIONAL DISCIPLINE AND UNITY WHICH SENGHOR WOULD LIKE TO PROJECT.

7. UNITA FOREIGN MINISTER KAKUMBA MARQUES WAS PROMINENTLY SEATED IN VIP TRIBUNE DURING PARADE.
AGGREY UNQUOTE SISCO

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